

1 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
2 OFFICE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY
3 OFFICE OF FUEL CYCLE MANAGEMENT
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7 GLOBAL NUCLEAR ENERGY PARTNERSHIP
8 PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
9 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
10 February 27, 2007
11 6:00 p.m.
12 Best Western Sally Port Inn & Suites
13 2000 N. Main Street
14 Roswell, New Mexico
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22 HELD BEFORE:

23 Hearing Officer Richard Black,
24 Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary
25 Office of Nuclear Energy

Holmes Brown, Facilitator

26 REPORTED BY: DEBORAH L. O'CONNOR, RPR, CRR, CCR #297
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31 (3623B) DEB

1 MR. BROWN: Good evening. Welcome to this
2 public scoping meeting, and I guess I should ask
3 people to turn off their cell phones. Thank you.
4 Good evening. Welcome to this public scoping
5 meeting on the Programmatic Environmental Impact
6 Statement for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.
7 The development of an Environmental Impact Statement
8 for this project by the Department of Energy is
9 required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

10 My name is Holmes Brown. I will serve as
11 the facilitator for this evening's meeting. I'm not
12 an employee for the Department of Energy nor an
13 advocate for any particular party or position. My
14 role is to make sure that the meeting runs on
15 schedule and that everybody has an opportunity to
16 speak.

17 At the registration table you should have
18 received an information packet. If not, please
19 raise your hand and staff can bring you one. It
20 contains important information on the presentation
21 and is a convenient place to take notes during the
22 briefing that will follow shortly.

23 There are three purposes for tonight's
24 meeting. First, to provide information on the
25 content of the proposed Programmatic Environmental

1 Impact Statement and on the NEPA or National
2 Environmental Policy Act which governs the process.
3 The second purpose is to answer your questions on
4 both the PEIS and NEPA. And third to receive and
5 record your formal comments on the proposed PEIS.
6 The agenda for tonight's meeting reflects these
7 purposes.

8 We will begin with a video presentation by
9 Dennis Spurgeon, the assistant secretary for nuclear
10 energy for the Department of Energy. Next we will
11 hear a presentation from Richard Black regarding the
12 proposed Environmental Impact Statement for the
13 Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. Mr. Black is the
14 associate deputy assistant secretary for nuclear
15 energy. To answer your questions, project staff
16 will be available throughout the evening at the
17 displays in the adjoining room. They can discuss
18 the proposed PEIS and the NEPA process, the contents
19 of the printed materials that are available, and the
20 contents of Mr. Black's presentation.

21 Following Mr. Black's presentation we will
22 recess so the public may pursue further questions
23 with available project staff. Once we reconvene,
24 the court reporter will be available to receive your
25 comments and suggestions regarding the scope of the

1 GNEP proposed PEIS. All of your comments will be
2 transcribed and made part of the permanent record.
3 We will begin with a video presentation by DOE's
4 Dennis Spurgeon.

5 (A videotape was shown.)

6 MR. BROWN: I'm now pleased to introduce
7 Mr. Richard Black, the associate deputy assistant
8 secretary for nuclear energy for the Department of
9 Energy. He will discuss the background of the
10 project and the purpose and basic elements of the
11 proposed PEIS.

12 MR. BLACK: Thank you, Holmes, and good
13 evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to extend
14 my welcome as well to all of you tonight for this
15 very important public scoping meeting for the
16 department's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.

17 As Assistant Secretary Spurgeon indicated,
18 this is a very, very important meeting because it
19 really involves you. This is your opportunity to
20 give us suggestions, statements, concerns, comments
21 on the proposed scope of the GNEP initiative. So
22 your input is one of several inputs that we will
23 use -- I'll describe that later -- in this NEPA
24 process to come to a fully informed decision on the
25 GNEP proposal.

1 We are here today because local
2 organizations responded to a request by DOE in
3 August of 2006 to find out what public or private
4 organizations would be interested in hosting
5 facilities that might support GNEP facilities. And
6 in response to that request, Energy Solutions
7 proposed a facility here in Roswell, New Mexico, as
8 a potential host for one or more of the facilities
9 that we'll describe later. Your statements here
10 tonight will be considered as that analysis and
11 decision making process moves forward.

12 So before we -- before we get to your
13 statements, I'd like to give you a little background
14 and perspective of what we're doing and why. First
15 of all, I just want to give you an overview of
16 nuclear power and spent fuel management basics, and
17 then I want to talk about the NEPA process and why
18 that process provides the infrastructure for us to
19 come to a fully reasoned analysis and a sound
20 decision on the GNEP proposals. Next I want to talk
21 about the GNEP proposal itself. Since Secretary
22 Spurgeon did give you an overview, I'll put a little
23 bit more emphasis on some of the domestic projects
24 or facilities that we're going to propose and some
25 of the international initiatives. Then I want to

1 talk about the Programmatic Environmental Impact
2 Statement. Where we are, why we're doing it, and
3 what your involvement means.

4 First, nuclear power. Nuclear power
5 provides 20 percent of the nation's electrical power
6 today. We do this through 103 operating commercial
7 reactors. As Assistant Secretary Spurgeon
8 indicated, nuclear power reactors do not emit air
9 pollution or greenhouse gases and combined with
10 hydro and with -- and solar, it creates or generates
11 70 percent of the emissions free -- emission-free
12 electricity. Now, 70 percent is produced by nuclear
13 power, 30 percent is hydro and wind and solar.

14 A typical commercial power plant generates
15 electricity by the splitting or the fissioning
16 process of uranium to produce heat and drive a
17 turbine. We first start with uranium fuel in the
18 reactor core, and when the control rods are removed,
19 this starts the fissioning process. The fissioning
20 process creates energy, and that energy is then
21 converted to water. The water runs through the
22 core, the energy is transferred to the water, the
23 water goes over to a steam generator. The water
24 generates steam in the steam generator, and the high
25 pressure steam comes out of the containment building

1 and over to a turbine building where turbines are.
2 Turbine wheels spin at a very high speed and go to a
3 generator. The generator produce electricity.

4 Now, after completing an operating cycle,
5 typically 18 to 24 months, some uranium is
6 considered used up or spent and must be replaced
7 with fresh fuel. That spent fuel goes to a spent
8 fuel pool at the reactor site and later, as it
9 decays down and the heat goes down, it is then
10 transferred to dry cast storage, again at the
11 reactor site.

12 We now have two approaches to spent
13 nuclear fuel management. The once-through or open
14 cycle is a once-through cycle that the fuel is used
15 once and then it is taken out of the reactor, placed
16 on-site for safe storage, and then ultimately our
17 plan is to move it to a geological repository for
18 ultimate disposal.

19 GNEP proposes something different. It is
20 spent fuel that will be recycled. And we want to do
21 this to close the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle
22 so that we get the energy from the spent fuel and we
23 reduce the waste.

24 Why are we doing -- why are we proposing
25 the GNEP initiative at this time? Worldwide

1 electrical demand is expected to approximately
2 double in the next several decades. We know that
3 economies are expanding, witness China and India,
4 and their need for new electrical generation is
5 huge. And they certainly do want to pursue the
6 nuclear option as part of that. And so the US
7 believes it must pursue increased energy from
8 diverse sources in ways that protect and improve the
9 environment and enhance our nation's energy
10 security. And certainly since the events of 9/11,
11 energy security is first and foremost amongst our
12 energy policy thinking at this time.

13 What is the NEPA process that will lead us
14 to an informed decision on the NEPA proposal -- or
15 on the GNEP proposal? NEPA does require
16 consideration of potential environmental impacts,
17 the proposed actions and alternatives. This process
18 does involve you as a public. Public input is a
19 very crucial component of that decision making
20 process.

21 We document that decision making process,
22 we analyze it, and we document the information to
23 lead to that decision in what's called an
24 Environmental Impact Statement, and it is required
25 for any major federal action that may affect the

1 quality of the human environment. We do a
2 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement when
3 there is a broad range of things to consider. For a
4 program such as GNEP, it's very appropriate because
5 we have multiple facilities at multiple sites with
6 both domestic and international implications.
7 That's a broad program that we want to consider by
8 way of the Programmatic Environmental Impact
9 Statement.

10 Where are we in this process? Well, we
11 first started out in this process with the
12 department noticing -- giving some advance notice of
13 intent of what we wanted to do in terms of GNEP.
14 Those were issued in March 2006, January 2007. We
15 are now here at the public scoping process, getting
16 your input. We expect to issue a draft Programmatic
17 Environmental Impact Statement in the summer of
18 2007. We will solicit public comment on that draft.
19 We will issue a final Programmatic Environmental
20 Impact Statement, and that Programmatic
21 Environmental Impact Statement will be one of the
22 inputs to the secretary's record of decision, which
23 is now expected in June of 2008.

24 The purpose of the GNEP PEIS is to assess
25 reasonable alternatives that encourage the expansion

1 of worldwide nuclear energy production. It is also
2 to assess reasonable alternatives to reduce nuclear
3 proliferation risks and also alternatives that will
4 lead to the reduction of the volume of thermal
5 output and radiotoxicity before disposal in a
6 geologic repository, which is now considered to be
7 Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

8 What are the programmatic alternatives
9 that we are considering for GNEP? These are the
10 domestic programmatic alternatives. Alternative
11 No. 1 is really a no action alternative. It's to
12 continue the once-through fuel cycle and continue
13 the status quo in which commercial reactors, as I
14 indicated, generate and store spent fuel at their
15 sites until we can safely dispose of it at the
16 geological repository. We will still continue
17 ongoing research and develop the advanced nuclear
18 fuel cycle technologies, and we have done it at our
19 national labs for many decades. We continuously do
20 that, look at new technologies that will help us
21 improve the nuclear option.

22 The second alternative that we will
23 programmatically assess is the GNEP proposed action,
24 the broad implementation of a closed fuel cycle that
25 could include one or more nuclear fuel recycling

1 centers or one or more advanced recycling reactors
2 that I will discuss next.

3 As Assistant Secretary Spurgeon said, we
4 have three facilities that we're considering in the
5 domestic GNEP program. First is the nuclear fuel
6 recycling center. This center will separate spent
7 fuel into reusable uranium and transuranic elements.
8 The transuranics are neptunium, plutonium,
9 americium, and curium. Those are the atomic
10 elements above uranium in the chart and nonreusable
11 constituents, waste, without separating out pure
12 plutonium. Now, pure plutonium separation,
13 basically separating out uranium and separating out
14 plutonium. Plutonium will not come out as a pure
15 plutonium stream. It will have some other materials
16 in there that will decrease its use as a potential
17 nuclear weapons grade material. This is one of the
18 proliferation reduction things that we're looking
19 at.

20 This recycling center also will fabricate
21 fuel from the transuranics for use in the advanced
22 recycling reactor. We will analyze alternative
23 technologies and alternative spent fuel throughput
24 from 100 to 3,000 metric tons annually. At the
25 lower end of the scale, we would say it's kind of an

1 engineering demonstration. At the higher end of
2 that scale for metric tons, that would be more of a
3 commercial application of the recycling center.

4 The next facility is the advanced
5 recycling reactor. This reactor will be a different
6 technology than is currently employed in the United
7 States, a light water reactor, commercial light
8 water reactor technology, in that it will be
9 designed to destroy the transuranics through burn up
10 in the fissioning process while generating
11 electricity. This transuranic fuel or
12 transportation fuel will be recycled back to the
13 recycling center, and by closing the back end of the
14 fuel cycle, we will eliminate the transuranics,
15 particularly including plutonium.

16 The proposed technology that is included
17 in the GNEP proposal is the sodium-cooled fast
18 reacting. We mention this because we do have some
19 experience with it. We have deployed it at DOE
20 national labs, so we have some familiarity with the
21 technology. We just have to ramp the technology up.

22 We will analyze alternative power ratings
23 for this reactor from 250 to 2,000 megawatt thermal.
24 Again, this is going from an engineering scale
25 deployment to a commercial scale deployment. And

1 the footnote at the bottom of the slide basically
2 says these two facilities could be privately owned
3 and operated. If we go to the more commercial way
4 of deploying this, that's kind of thought to be a
5 commercial deployment for profit by a commercial
6 entity, potentially with some government-supplied
7 incentives and other involvement yet to be
8 determined. This is one of the things that we will
9 be analyzing as we go through the NEPA process here.

10 The last facility that will be part of the
11 domestic GNEP program is the advanced fuel cycle
12 research facility. It will support research and
13 development relating to separation technologies.
14 There is a range of separation technologies that
15 we're looking at, chemical reprocessing from UREX to
16 COAX to a bunch of COAXs. And there is also
17 something deploying electricity too that I'm not
18 quite certain I'm aware of totally, but it's
19 something that we're looking at as well as
20 fabrication of fast reactor transmutation fuel.

21 The first fuel to be supplied to the
22 advanced recycling reactor will be built at this
23 research facility, will be fabricated at this
24 facility. This facility will also support the
25 continued long-term research and development and

1 advanced fuel cycle technology just as we are doing
2 today, but this particular facility will become a
3 center of excellence in this particular advanced
4 fuel cycle technology. We need to restore the
5 United States's leadership in these advanced
6 technology nuclear options, and this advanced
7 research facility will become the keystone for that.
8 This particular advanced fuel cycle research center
9 will be constructed and operated at a DOE site.

10 Here are the GNEP site alternatives that
11 are currently under -- within the scope of the
12 analysis of the NEPA process. As you can see, these
13 are DOE sites. Los Alamos is here. The non-DOE
14 sites including Roswell, New Mexico, is considered
15 with those other sites. Now, we will use a
16 screening process to determine which sites are
17 reasonable alternatives for further study. The
18 screening process is designed to screen out sites
19 that don't have one or more site characteristics
20 that we're looking for. It could be a safety
21 characteristic, does it have enough water supply.
22 It could be a security consideration, does it have
23 security that we're looking for. And an
24 infrastructure, does it have the right
25 infrastructure to support one or more of these

1 facilities. So there are site characteristics that
2 go through a site screening process to filter out
3 those sites that don't have the characteristics that
4 we're initially looking for.

5 Again, here's a table form showing the
6 sites and what facilities we are considering for
7 those sites. And, again, at the bottom, Roswell, we
8 are looking at the fuel recycling center as well as
9 the advanced recycling reactor for deployment here
10 at this site. Again, this is something that I
11 mentioned before.

12 Now, what are the international GNEP
13 initiatives? We're going to work with our partner
14 nations -- and when I say "partner nations," I'm
15 talking about those five or six nations that have
16 advanced nuclear technologies such as Canada, Great
17 Britain, Russia, Japan. And with those partner
18 nations we will develop a program that has two
19 elements, a fuel services program -- and this is to
20 assure the availability of nuclear fuel to those
21 nations that wish to pursue the nuclear option for
22 future energy needs if they agree to refrain from
23 pursuing the uranium enrichment and reprocessing
24 programs. We want to remove their temptation, their
25 desire, their ability to produce nuclear weapons,

1 and this is the fuel management program that aims to
2 do that.

3 We also want to -- we also want to work
4 with our partner nations to come up with a reactor
5 program. We call this the safe, secure reactor. It
6 is going to be a right-sized reactor based on
7 advanced technologies that could be developed by
8 Russia, could be developed by France, could be
9 developed by the United States or even Japan to
10 deploy to those nations that wish to pursue the
11 nuclear option for their future energy needs. We
12 want to make those safe and secure. We want them to
13 make them the right size in that they're going to be
14 smaller reactors, maybe 300 to 500. They're going
15 to be put in modules so you can add one or more
16 modules to fit your needs. They could be fabricated
17 off-site and easily deployed on-site in some
18 developing nation.

19 With respect to this international
20 initiative, we're not in the United States proposing
21 any specific action right now with respect to these
22 international initiatives, but we do want to assess
23 what we call the US impacts that these international
24 initiatives might have as well as the impacts on the
25 global commerce.

1 Here are the typical environmental issues
2 that we will consider for each of the sites. You
3 can see that they range from impacts to people to
4 impacts on property to impacts on the environment to
5 impacts on the socioeconomic infrastructure of a
6 community, and these are the ones that we have put
7 on as a list for the -- to be considered. But we
8 also have found out that you people as members of
9 the local community do have local issues, local
10 impacts that you wish us to consider too, and this
11 is your opportunity to raise those issues here
12 tonight or in written comments later.

13 The record of decision will determine
14 whether to proceed with the construction operation
15 of the GNEP recycling facilities and, if so, we will
16 address where they will be located -- where they
17 potentially can be located, I should say, and what
18 technologies and capacities to utilize. The
19 decision will be based on input from the PEIS, as I
20 mentioned earlier, as well as ongoing studies on
21 economics as well as ongoing technology information
22 as well as policy information that supports both the
23 domestic and the international initiatives under
24 GNEP. So the secretary's record of decision will be
25 based on a whole range of information to make sure

1 that it is a sound, fully informed decision.

2 How can you help us make a sound decision?

3 Provide comments. Reasonable alternatives to DOE's
4 proposed actions and analyzed in the GNEP PEIS, as
5 well as potentially significant environmental issues
6 to be analyzed. I mean, like I said, you have some
7 local issues, local concerns, local community and
8 environmental issues that you may wish to bring to
9 our attention and we want to give you that
10 opportunity to do so.

11 Continue to be informed. Here is a web
12 site that's up and has information that we will
13 continue to supply further information as we go
14 through this decision making process. Continue to
15 be involved. Some of you have signed up for a
16 distribution list for the draft PEIS. We encourage
17 you to do that. We encourage you to read that and
18 provide further comments as that opportunity unfolds
19 for you. We may also have some more public meetings
20 in New Mexico. Keep informed on that and
21 participate as warranted.

22 How can you provide your comments? Oral
23 and written. Orally tonight. They will be
24 recorded, they will become part of the record of
25 decision. By US mail, by e-mail, by telephone, by

1 fax. The comment period ends April 4, 2007, for
2 this part of the process.

3 I thank you for your participation
4 tonight -- actually, I want to do one other thing.
5 I want to introduce Dr. Paul Lisowski that's sitting
6 here in the room. Paul, raise your hand. He is
7 formerly of the Los Alamos National Labs. He is the
8 deputy assistant secretary of nuclear energy and
9 actually the point person, actually the manager for
10 the GNEP proposal. So I point him out because you
11 have a very good opportunity to ask him those many
12 questions on the detailed technology issues and
13 questions that I can't answer. So Paul is the point
14 person for that tonight. So as you -- as we give
15 you some recess time here, seek him out if you have
16 some really good questions for him. He's got the
17 answers.

18 I want to thank you for your
19 participation, your involvement and your continued
20 interest in this very, very important proposal.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much. Mr. Black
23 covered a lot of territory in the preceding slides,
24 and at this time we'd like to take a break and allow
25 you an opportunity to pose follow-up questions to

1 anything that you have on those slides. There are
2 staff available at the exhibit tables to answer your
3 questions, both on the presentation and on the
4 slides, and they will be available throughout the
5 evening. I'd also -- following up on Dr. Paul
6 Lisowski's presence, I'd like to invite any
7 representatives of the media who would like to
8 interview Dr. Lisowski to please see Susan Scott in
9 the back. Susan, if you can raise your hand. There
10 she is over there. So if there are members of the
11 media who would like to interview Dr. Lisowski,
12 please see Susan about that.

13 When we resume, I will make an
14 announcement and that will begin the formal portion
15 of the meeting to take your oral comments. If you'd
16 like to make an oral comment and have not yet signed
17 up, please do so at the table at the back of the
18 room. So we'll now take a break to ask questions
19 after which we will begin the formal comment period.
20 Thank you.

21 (A recess was taken from 6:41 to 6:59.)

22 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much. It's now
23 time to receive your formal comments on the scope of
24 the proposed Programmatic Environmental Impact
25 Statement. This is your opportunity to let the

1 Department of Energy know what you would like to see
2 addressed in the draft document. The court reporter
3 will transcribe your statements. Our reporter for
4 tonight is Debbie O'Connor, who has handled our last
5 two meetings as well. Thanks.

6 Let me review a few of the ground rules
7 for tonight. Please step up to that microphone over
8 there when your name is called, introduce yourself,
9 providing an organizational affiliation where
10 appropriate. If you have a written version of your
11 statement, please provide a copy to the court
12 reporter after you have concluded your remarks.
13 Also, if you have any other documents that you would
14 like to have entered in the record but are not
15 reading, those can be submitted at the same time.
16 They will be marked, inventoried, and submitted as
17 part of the record.

18 I will call two names at a time, the first
19 of the speaker and the second of the person to
20 follow. In view of the number of people who signed
21 up to speak and the amount of time remaining, please
22 confine your comments to four minutes. So if you
23 have a longer statement, try and summarize. I will
24 let you know when you have a minute left. Mr. Black
25 will be serving as the hearing officer for the

1 Department of Energy this evening. He will not be
2 responding to any questions or comments at this
3 time.

4 So with that, by way of introduction, let
5 me begin with the first person who signed up to
6 speak. That is Cindy Willard. And Cindy will be
7 followed by Sam LaGrone.

8 MS. WILLARD: Good evening. The
9 congressman sends his warm regards and his regrets
10 for not being able to be here tonight. He had votes
11 on the floor of the house today. So -- is that --
12 this is to the Honorable Dennis Spurgeon, assistant
13 secretary for nuclear energy.

14 "Dear Secretary Spurgeon: I want to thank
15 you for holding scoping meetings in New Mexico to
16 learn about our region's interest in becoming the
17 permanent site of the Global Nuclear Energy
18 Partnership facility. I hope that you will hear
19 about the tremendous interest in this project that
20 has been generated from the people whom it will
21 affect the most.

22 "Over the last decade our state has
23 embraced nuclear energy and its enormous potential.
24 Our communities have transformed themselves into
25 national leaders in the field of handling and

1 processing nuclear materials. The Waste Isolation
2 Pilot Project in Carlsbad constitutes just one
3 example of the vigor, determination, and skill that
4 distinguished our communities' approach to such
5 projects. Moreover, the establishment of the
6 National Enrichment Facility in Eunice, New Mexico,
7 became possible by virtue of strong local support.

8 "I trust that your visit to New Mexico
9 will leave you with no doubt regarding New Mexicans'
10 commitment to a safe, efficient, and economically
11 vibrant nuclear energy sector, building upon our
12 state's central role in the infancy of atomic
13 research itself.

14 "Please enjoy your time here in New Mexico
15 and know that we are committed to seeing GNEP settle
16 here in southern New Mexico.

17 "Sincerely, Stevan Pearce, member of
18 Congress."

19 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much. Sam
20 LaGrone.

21 MAYOR LaGRONE: The economic impact to
22 Chaves County and southeastern New Mexico, the
23 economic impact is huge, what it could do for our
24 part of the state. The reliance on foreign oil, the
25 situation we're in today, is a very dangerous

1 situation, and I see it getting nothing but worse as
2 time goes on.

3 I had the opportunity along with a small
4 group last week to travel over to England to
5 personally view Sellafield. I was unbelievably
6 impressed with that facility over there, both in the
7 cleanliness of things, way more importantly the
8 safety of things. They had a dairy that was very
9 near this facility. They checked the milk
10 continually. It always proved not to be a problem
11 whatsoever over there.

12 I think of all the things I saw, the most
13 impressive for me, anyway, was getting to visit the
14 employees, some of which were third generation
15 employees. Their granddad and their father and
16 themselves worked there. Keep in mind, a lot of
17 this plant was built in World War II. Our
18 technology is far, far advanced today from what it
19 was back in those days.

20 So I believe this is a very clean process.
21 I think it is a very needed thing in our country. I
22 think we're extremely behind in comparison to Europe
23 and other countries. So I would say I was just
24 very, very impressed with it. And I just want you
25 to know we also visited with a lot of just the

1 ordinary fellow out on the street. We didn't just
2 visit with folks at the plant. And to the one,
3 every person we talked to was very, very convinced
4 of the safety of it, of the good jobs that it
5 created for their area.

6 So I looked forward tonight to come out
7 and share my firsthand experience with you, that I
8 had the opportunity to be over there last week and
9 see firsthand what a great facility that is and know
10 that we can do a lot better than that with modern
11 technology. Thank you.

12 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much. Dale Gandy
13 is next. Is Dale here? Dale's in the back. And
14 while Dale is coming up, Bob Marley will follow
15 Dale. I'm sorry, Bill. I've been corrected. It is
16 Bill Marley. Thank you.

17 MR. GANDY: I appreciate you coming to
18 Roswell and southeastern New Mexico. I'd like to
19 give you a little bit of history of our facility
20 that we're working on. It's Gandy Marley,
21 Incorporated, Triassic Park. The owners of it are
22 the Marley family from here in Roswell, myself, and
23 my family. We're from the Lovington and Tatum area.
24 We got a RCRA permit, which is a hazardous waste
25 permit, about seven years ago, a little under seven

1 years ago, and before we could do anything with it,
2 9/11 happened to our work and it has almost put it
3 at a standstill.

4 Triassic Park is named after the triassic
5 clays that are several thousand years old. It's a
6 good location. We believe that it's a safe and good
7 site. It does not, has not had a nuclear permit on
8 the site or a radioactive. It's all been hazardous
9 waste.

10 There is three land farms operating there
11 now -- two land farms and a disposal. And it's
12 operating successfully and we believe we have a good
13 spot for the location. It's safe, and I think this
14 is a good economic opportunity for all of us. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Okay. Bill
17 Marley. And Jack Swickard will be next.

18 MR. MARLEY: I'm Bill Marley from Gandy
19 Marley, vice president. My family moved here in the
20 late 1870s. My family wants to stay here. We've
21 done our research on this --

22 MR. BROWN: Can you speak up? I'm sorry.
23 The court reporter --

24 MR. MARLEY: I apologize. I'm Bill
25 Marley, vice president of Gandy Marley. My family

1 moved here in the late 1870s. We have no intentions
2 of bringing anything to this area that is unsafe.
3 We are just trying to help economic development for
4 this community and for the quality of life for the
5 citizens of Roswell and Chaves County. Thank you.

6 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Jack will be
7 followed by Rory McMinn.

8 MR. SWICKARD: Hi. I'm Jack Swickard, a
9 proud resident of Roswell, New Mexico. I had
10 received an e-mail several days ago which I find
11 completely erroneous now that I've been here and
12 watched the presentation.

13 I have to say, I'm very happy with your
14 presentation because one of my concerns has been if
15 you have radioactivity, radioactive materials, how
16 do you safeguard them. But if we eliminate the
17 radioactivity by recycling, I think we're
18 accomplishing the best of both worlds.

19 I did some research on the critics and
20 found that some of them don't even like us burning
21 oil, gas, and coal, which leaves me wondering what
22 we would be heating our homes with, cow chips or
23 buffalo pies? I think that our lessening our
24 dependence on foreign energy is a very, very
25 worthwhile goal and I encourage you to do it. I

1 think that safe nuclear power generation and
2 recycling will make us all very independent. Thank
3 you very much.

4 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Rory McMinn, and
5 Bob Donnell will be next.

6 MR. McMINN: My name is Rory McMinn, and I
7 reside in Chaves County. I'm in the oil and gas
8 business, and I'm a former public regulation
9 commissioner here in the state of New Mexico.

10 My concern and the reason for my support
11 of the Gandy Marley facility and Energy Solutions
12 is -- goes to my history on the public regulation
13 commission, and I served on the public regulation
14 commission at the time that the California energy
15 crisis was ongoing and coming to an end. And at
16 that time we saw many things take place, and one of
17 the things that I saw take place was our major
18 dependence on a very minimum number of sources of
19 generation of electricity within this country.

20 During my time on the public regulation
21 commission, we were able to promulgate some rules
22 and effect a renewable energy portfolio within the
23 state of New Mexico that has codified into law by
24 the state legislature and is now being changed,
25 amended, and increased. But what I see taking place

1 also is the fact that even with these movements by
2 various legislators and the need for renewables and
3 other sources of generation, no matter how many
4 renewable sites you build, you're not going to be
5 able to transport that electricity. And so the
6 point that I think needs to be made is that we are
7 using some nuclear energy at this point in time and
8 we are not recycling those fuel rods. We have about
9 650,000 metric tons of spent fuel rods that's being
10 stored right now. 95 percent of their original
11 energy is still available to us if we recycle them.
12 And with the ability to do this with this facility,
13 hopefully that's at Gandy Marley, will move this
14 country a long way towards energy independence.

15 I'm here to speak in support of the Gandy
16 Marley, Energy Solutions facility, and I'd also like
17 to place into the record letters from Representative
18 Nora Espinoza of Chaves County, Lincoln County, and
19 Otero County; Representative Keith Gardner, who
20 represents Chaves, Eddy, Lea, and Roosevelt
21 counties; Senator -- State Senator Rod Adair, who
22 represents Lea and -- I mean Chaves and Lincoln
23 County; and State Senator Gary Kernan, who
24 represents Curry, Lea, Roosevelt, Chaves, and Eddy
25 counties in our state legislature who could not be

1 here tonight and would like to have their letters of
2 support placed into the record. Thank you.

3 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Bob Donnell.

4 MR. DONNELL: My name is Bob Donnell, a
5 resident of Roswell, executive director of the
6 Chaves County Development Foundation. I, along with
7 the mayor, had an opportunity to travel to England
8 to see the Sellafield site. Our purpose was on the
9 human side, actually to visit with individuals over
10 there, ask the questions we need to ask. The
11 technology side was to be addressed at a later date.
12 We felt by the time that we were given that, our
13 purpose only at that time was to ask questions of
14 the safety of the plant and so forth.

15 We had the opportunity to hold several
16 very candid discussions with members of what's
17 called the West Cumbrian Site Stakeholders Group.
18 We had a chance to have extensive conversations with
19 Mr. David Moore, who is the chairman of that
20 organization. In two meetings, an evening meeting
21 and a very long following meeting after that, we
22 were able to ask many, many questions with regard to
23 the safety of the program and their support of the
24 program and their advice to us on how we move
25 forward.

1 One thing he pointed out is a critical
2 factor, and we'd like to point it out as well. It's
3 really important for us to build a stakeholders
4 group as well. Members of their stakeholders group
5 include members of Parliament, representatives of
6 the Cumbrian County Council, and so forth. There is
7 about 25 members that are elected or appointed to
8 that particular stakeholders group, which is an
9 oversight group, which they highly recommended that
10 we, again, organize and promote here in Chaves
11 County.

12 From what we observed, we as the group
13 that attended -- and I will say that the mayor and I
14 attended that from finances from the Chaves County
15 Development Foundation. We felt like it was best
16 that we go over and we pay our own way and to
17 observe and that way we would have the opinion -- to
18 express our opinion on what we saw.

19 And Mr. Bill Marley asked us to give a
20 direct answer when we returned back, and I'd like to
21 say that from the safety that we saw throughout the
22 plant but more importantly from the comments that we
23 heard from members of the stakeholders group, we're
24 in support of the GNEP program in Chaves County.
25 Thank you very much.

1 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Paula Grieves, and
2 Greg Nibert will follow.

3 MS. GRIEVES: Thank you. I'm Paula
4 Grieves and a fourth generation Chaves County
5 native. I am a graduate of Roswell schools and have
6 been in business in Roswell since 1972.

7 I speak in favor of this recycling plant,
8 and I speak in favor of us as a community making an
9 educated and informed decision to proceed through
10 this process. I believe that as our questions are
11 answered, we will find that this is a very highly
12 regulated industry and that our safety concerns for
13 the employees of this facility and our community and
14 the environmental impact will be noted and taken
15 care of.

16 I believe that we will also find that
17 Global Energy Solutions, who will be a partner with
18 Gandy Marley and the DOE, have an impeccable
19 reputation and will stand up to the most thorough
20 scrutiny and as a result of this question and answer
21 process, that we will be able to welcome this
22 facility into our community, the Department of
23 Energy, Global Energy Solutions, and the employees
24 to this community. Thank you.

25 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

1 MS. GRIEVES: I also do have a letter from
2 State Representative Candy Ezzell, who is unable to
3 attend, and she is writing in support of this
4 project.

5 MR. BROWN: Thanks again.

6 MR. NIBERT: I'm Greg Nibert, vice
7 president of the Roswell Chamber of Commerce, and
8 this afternoon we had a board meeting and would like
9 to extend our support for the study of this project.
10 The Roswell business community likes to see a lot of
11 economic development opportunities come to Chaves
12 County, and we believe that this presents many
13 opportunities for our business community and for our
14 county. And we would like to say welcome to the
15 study and we'll be interested to see how the study
16 reveals the facts and see if this will indeed result
17 in an economic boost to our community. Thank you.

18 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Our next speaker
19 is Bill Pope, who will be followed by Kenneth Berry.

20 MR. POPE: Thank you. Ladies and
21 gentlemen, I'm Bill Pope, a citizen of Roswell,
22 New Mexico. I spent 44 and a half years in the
23 electric utility business here in Roswell. I served
24 on the state corporation commission and on the
25 public regulation commission and was elected

1 chairman on two different occasions.

2 I have just been watching with some
3 interest the fact that it's all over the world now
4 we're hearing about global warming. We saw just on
5 Sunday night former Vice President Al Gore receiving
6 an award for his efforts in informing citizens about
7 global warming.

8 It's here, ladies and gentlemen, and we
9 have to deal with this. This is a way to deal with
10 global warming. Southwestern Public Service Company
11 has recently made an agreement they're going to buy
12 power from another generation plant that's going to
13 be built in Lea County. This again adds to the
14 global warming, if you would. So Rory mentioned to
15 you the fact that renewable energy is one of those
16 things that the PRC looked at. We looked at it when
17 I was on that commission. We made efforts to do
18 that.

19 One of the things I want you to remember
20 is that anything that you have with renewable energy
21 is not dispatchable power. Now, what that means is
22 whenever a company steps up and says, we can
23 guarantee that we have sufficient power for all of
24 your needs for five years or ten years or whatever
25 that period is, you can't include renewable energy

1 because it's not a guaranteed source of power. And
2 so this is a way, too, that we can ensure that our
3 citizens will have the power that they need for the
4 future. Thank you very much.

5 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Kenneth Berry. Kay
6 Rogers will be next.

7 MR. BERRY: Ladies and gentlemen, I'm Ken
8 Berry. I presently serve as the CEO of Roswell
9 National Bank. I also have the privilege to serve
10 as vice president of the Chaves County Development
11 Foundation and as the secretary of the Roswell
12 Chamber of Commerce.

13 The Chaves County Development Foundation
14 supported a telephone poll that was conducted on
15 Monday throughout Chaves County. The results of
16 that poll indicated that 56.9 percent of the people
17 surveyed support the Gandy Marley site or believe
18 that this project merits additional study and
19 consideration. Of the 2,444 people who were
20 interviewed by phone, an additional 409 individuals
21 in that group requested that their names be added to
22 the list of area residents who support this -- the
23 continuation of this study. So I would like to
24 enter eight pages of names into the record, and I
25 would also like to express my personal support as

1 well as the support of those organizations to which
2 I earlier referred for the continuation of this
3 study and project.

4 MR. BROWN: Thanks. Kay Rogers. Will
5 Palmer will be next.

6 MS. ROGERS: I'm Kay Rogers, and I've
7 lived in Chaves County since 1972. I'm immediate
8 past president of the Roswell Chamber of Commerce,
9 on the board of directors for the CCDF, but most
10 importantly, I'm a grandmother and a great
11 grandmother. And some of our grandchildren are
12 actually moving back to Roswell by choice because
13 they love living here. And for that reason I
14 strongly support this study that gives us the
15 opportunity not just for Chaves County but for the
16 United States of America to pursue alternative
17 energy. I also have a letter that I was asked to
18 read. Keith Gardner couldn't be here, State
19 Representative Keith Gardner, and he asked that this
20 letter be read in his absence. And this letter is
21 addressed to Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary of Energy,
22 Department of Energy, Washington, DC.

23 "Dear Secretary Bodman. Thank you for the
24 opportunity to comment on an important national
25 energy security initiative, the Global Nuclear

1 Energy Partnership. I am proud that New Mexico
2 hosts a variety of nuclear missions, including those
3 at Sandia, Los Alamos, WIPP, and LES Enrichment. I
4 am comfortable with these missions as we are assured
5 of compliance with our environmental and safety laws
6 and regulations. Recycling spent nuclear fuel is
7 the smart, common sense way for our country to
8 proceed.

9 "Energy Solutions has proven -- has a
10 proven track record in the commercial recycling of
11 spent nuclear fuel. Just east of Roswell, a fully
12 investigated site, as demonstrated by a RCRA permit,
13 is owned by Gandy Marley Corporation. Recognizing
14 the department's GNEP strategic plan and call for
15 industry-based recycle facilities and a recycle
16 reactor, the combination of Energy Solutions, Gandy
17 Marley, Incorporated, and the Roswell and
18 surrounding southeastern New Mexico region stands
19 ready to execute this vital mission.

20 "I encourage the department to pursue an
21 industry-led initiative in recycle of spent nuclear
22 fuel with support from our premier national
23 laboratories and research institutions. I strongly
24 advocate for locating these facilities in the
25 Roswell area.

1 "I have no doubt that some will step
2 forward with emotional and inflammatory statements
3 regarding nuclear facilities. I also know the
4 industry has a proven record in both generating and
5 recycling spent nuclear fuel. I urge you to site
6 these GNEP facilities in Roswell, New Mexico.
7 Sincerely, Keith Gardner." Thank you.

8 MR. BROWN: Will Palmer. And -- will be
9 followed by Sarah Kelly.

10 MR. PALMER: My name is Will Palmer, and
11 I'm representing the Lovington Economic Development
12 Corporation, and I have a short letter here I'd like
13 to read from.

14 "Recognizing the urgency to find the
15 solution to alternative fuels and energy as well as
16 finding a way to reuse spent fuels and reduce the
17 amount of disposable waste, the Lovington Economic
18 Development Corporation supports the Global Nuclear
19 Energy Partnership or GNEP in its efforts to
20 increase global energy security, reduce the risk of
21 nuclear proliferation, encourage clean development
22 around the world, and improving the environment.

23 "In an area of the United States where oil
24 and gas are a major source of economics, we, the
25 citizens, understand the part energy plays in

1 sustaining economic growth and prosperity. Fossil
2 fuels support our economy but will not be available
3 forever. It's time to find alternative fuels.

4 "The City of Lovington is unique in that
5 it lies between two proposed sites for facilities
6 planned for the GNEP. We have Hobbs/Carlsbad to the
7 south and Tatum/Roswell to the north. In the best
8 interests of Lovington economic development as well
9 as for the future of global energy, we will support
10 the decision of the Department of Energy and GNEP
11 should either of these sites be selected for the
12 purpose of spent fuel recycling and an advanced
13 recycling reactor." Thank you.

14 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Sarah Kelly.

15 MS. KELLY: My name is Sarah Kelly, and
16 I'm a resident of Roswell. It is my belief that
17 this site is not the most appropriate site for a
18 nuclear reprocessing facility. Tonight's
19 presentation, while very informative, was very
20 general in nature, and I, for one, have many
21 questions that were not addressed as to how this
22 process will apply particularly to our specific
23 local site.

24 I, therefore, call not only on the
25 Department of Energy to answer the questions that

1 come up tonight that my fellow citizens and I have
2 in the draft Environmental Impact Statement, but I
3 also call on Energy Solutions to please hold further
4 public meetings here in Roswell where we local
5 citizens can be answered more personally and
6 directly and come to a better understanding of what
7 this would mean to our community.

8 A few of the numerous questions that I
9 have are, first and foremost, why does it not make
10 sense to locate this facility closer to a supply of
11 spent fuel rods, in other words, current nuclear
12 facilities? It seems to me that in terms of
13 transportation, security, et cetera, that it would
14 make much more sense to have a plant like this
15 located near existing facilities.

16 A second question I have are, what are the
17 levels of air and water emissions that are emitted
18 during this process of reprocessing the nuclear fuel
19 rods, how much water does such a facility use, where
20 will the water supply come from? As I'm sure you
21 all know, New Mexico is a state with very limited
22 water resources, and that is major concern to me.
23 Mr. Wilcynski of Energy Solutions has been quoted in
24 the Roswell Daily Record as saying, quote, People
25 just need to understand this and decide if they want

1 it, end quote.

2 And is this true? Will this project not
3 go forward without public approval? And, if so,
4 will that public approval be ascertained just during
5 this initial comment period? I think people need to
6 know, you know, is this it. By April 4 is that what
7 we, you know -- is that it for us to have our vote?

8 Another question I have is what would be
9 the method of transportation of spent fuel rods?
10 Will there be ambient radiation from the facility?
11 What happens to the vitrified waste that is produced
12 after the reprocessing process? Mr. Wilcynski of
13 Energy Solutions and other speakers here tonight
14 have implied that this is an issue of energy
15 independence. However, it was reported in the
16 Roswell Daily Record that the reprocessed fuel would
17 be sold to other countries. So I don't -- I fail to
18 see how this is an issue of energy independence.

19 Will none of the reprocessed fuel be used
20 in the US? And, if so, why not? What will be done
21 to secure reprocessed plutonium from nuclear weapons
22 proliferation, especially during long
23 transportations to and from nuclear facilities and
24 also overseas, if they are indeed selling the
25 reprocessed fuel to overseas countries.

1 How long might unprocessed spent fuel
2 rods be stored at this facility? And I also have
3 other questions regarding the environmental justice,
4 the impact of having -- this would be the third
5 nuclear facility in southeast New Mexico in a very
6 small radius in recent years. So I'm concerned
7 about environmental justice and also the security
8 issues at the facility.

9 These are just a few of my questions, and
10 so I really would appreciate it if Energy Solutions
11 would hold further public information meetings so
12 that we can have more input and receive more answers
13 on these issues. Thank you.

14 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Stephanie Darrow,
15 and Rand French will follow Stephanie.

16 MS. DARROW: My name is Stephanie Darrow,
17 and I'm a citizen of Roswell, New Mexico. In an era
18 of corporate globalization, we need to create global
19 solutions. We can't tell other countries that what
20 they are doing is wrong and bad for the earth and
21 turn around and do what we tell them they can't.

22 Reprocessing destabilizes waste. The fuel
23 rods are taken out of the assemblies, chopped up,
24 and then dissolved in nitric acid. The resulting
25 highly radioactive, caustic stew is then processed

1 to remove the plutonium and the uranium, leaving the
2 highly radioactive fission products in the liquids.
3 While there are methods to attempt to restabilize
4 these materials, there has been a fundamental loss
5 in the stability of the dry surrounding pellet in
6 the metal clad fuel rod. The most common form is
7 MOX, short for mixed oxide made from plutonium and
8 depleted uranium.

9 Today's reactors can use MOX fuel, but it
10 is riskier and more hazardous. MOX is harder to
11 control and twice as deadly as uranium fuel if it
12 gets out of control. MOX does not solve the waste
13 problem since reprocessing MOX fuel is even harder
14 than reprocessing uranium fuel. At the moment US
15 civilian nuclear power plants use only low-enriched
16 uranium as fuel. This fuel cannot be used directly
17 to make nuclear weapons as the fuel is burned up in
18 the reactor. Plutonium and -- excuse me,
19 radioactive fission products are produced.

20 The plutonium and remaining uranium can be
21 separated from the other materials in spent nuclear
22 fuel by reprocessing, which is a hazardous and
23 expensive series of chemical operations. The
24 purified plutonium that is obtained from
25 reprocessing can be reused as fuel in fast neutron

1 reactors or terrorists groups can use it to make
2 nuclear weapons.

3 The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership has
4 its sites set on New Mexico under GNEP, and the US
5 and a few other selected countries would reprocess
6 the world's commercial nuclear waste and use the
7 separated plutonium in a fast neutron reactor.
8 Global experience in the past 60 years has shown
9 that reprocessing is extremely complicated and
10 expensive and undermines global proliferation
11 efforts. Moreover, efforts to build fast reactors
12 have been safety and economic failures. No solution
13 has been created to deal with the nuclear waste
14 generated by nuclear power or reprocessing. Three
15 sites in New Mexico have applied for reprocessing.

16 I'm not going to read the rest of it, but
17 I'm going to have it put into the record. I'm
18 concerned, very concerned. I don't want it here.

19 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Rand French. Is
20 Rand here? Edmundo Orozco, and Stuart Shanor will
21 be next.

22 MR. OROZCO: My name is Edmundo Orozco,
23 and I'm a resident of Chaves County. I was the
24 director of the Department of Development for the
25 City of Carlsbad when the Waste Isolation Pilot

1 Plant was being considered and planned, so I have
2 some general knowledge and specific knowledge about
3 the process.

4 The issues that are being discussed here
5 are significant and important, irrespective of
6 whether or not this facility -- wherever this
7 facility is located. But because our area is under
8 consideration for this facility, I think it's
9 incumbent upon us as taxpayers and as citizens that
10 we become informed and participate in the decision
11 making process. Thank you.

12 MR. BROWN: And I think Bernard Treat will
13 be next.

14 MR. SHANOR: My name is Stuart Shanor.
15 I'm here to speak as a 40-year citizen of Roswell.
16 First of all, I'd like to say that I support the
17 mission of GNEP. I came here tonight because I was
18 concerned, not because a study is going forward
19 because I applaud that study and I think it's
20 important that we see the results of that study.
21 But I came tonight to speak in favor of proceeding
22 with that study and for us to not prematurely judge
23 this project adversely, because I think it does have
24 important implications for Roswell. And if it is
25 safe and it is a suitable site, which at first blush

1 it seems to be, and I would think that it would be a
2 very favorable economic development circumstance for
3 Roswell.

4 I can tell you that over the 40 years that
5 I have been here, we've been blessed with extremely
6 good leadership in our community. I have great
7 personal confidence in the leaders of the community
8 who have spoken this evening. I don't believe any
9 of them are going to make irrational decisions, and
10 I look forward to seeing further results of the
11 study that you will conduct. Thank you.

12 MR. BROWN: Bernard Treat. Tom Tarter
13 will be next.

14 MR. TREAT: Good evening. My name is
15 Bernard Treat. I'm the executive director of the
16 Roswell Chamber of Commerce and on behalf of our
17 directors, we do stand in support of the study. But
18 I wanted to utilize my time tonight by -- I was
19 asked to read a letter from Representative Dan
20 Foley, House Republican whip representing Chaves,
21 Lincoln, and Otero counties.

22 "Dear Secretary: Thank you for the
23 opportunity to comment this evening on an important
24 national energy security initiative, the Global
25 Nuclear Energy Partnership. We New Mexicans are

1 proud hosts of a variety of nuclear missions,
2 including those at Sandia, Los Alamos, WIPP, and LES
3 Enrichment. We are comfortable with these missions,
4 we are assured of compliance with our environment
5 and safety laws and regulations by our professional
6 and well-qualified state, EPA, and other regulatory
7 staffs, and we believe recycling spent nuclear fuel
8 is the smart common sense way for our country to
9 proceed.

10 "Experience and proven track records in
11 the commercial recycle of spent nuclear fuel is
12 readily available to the department through
13 companies such as Energy Solutions. Just east of
14 Roswell, a fully investigated site as demonstrated
15 by an RCRA permit is owned by the Gandy Marley
16 Corporation. Recognizing the department's GNEP
17 strategic plan and its call for industry-based
18 recycle facilities and a recycle reactor, the
19 combination of Energy Solutions, Gandy Marley,
20 Incorporated, and Roswell and the surrounding
21 southeastern New Mexico region stands ready to
22 execute this vital mission.

23 "We encourage the department to pursue an
24 industry-led initiative in recycle of spent nuclear
25 fuel with support from our premier national

1 laboratories and research institutions. We strongly
2 advocate for relocating these facilities here near
3 Roswell. Such facilities are licensed and permitted
4 other places in the world, and we would expect
5 nothing less than fully licensed and permitted
6 facilities here in our state.

7 "Without a doubt, many will step forward
8 with emotive and inflammatory statements regarding
9 nuclear facilities. We know otherwise by reviewing
10 the proven record of the industry, both in power
11 generation and recycle of spent nuclear fuel. We
12 urge you to consider these GNEP facilities right
13 here in Roswell, New Mexico.

14 "Sincerely, Dan Foley."

15 And, also, I'd just like to have everybody
16 keep in mind that as New Mexicans we are represented
17 by the two people leading our country in energy
18 debate. Thank you.

19 MR. BROWN: Tom Tarter.

20 MR. TARTER: I wish to withdraw my request
21 to speak. I've only seen the cover or cover up part
22 of the program. I'd like to see more that's more
23 germane to Roswell before I comment. But thank you.

24 MR. BROWN: Certainly. Ernie King. Is
25 Ernie here? Todd Wagener. Todd will be followed by

1 Ed Nabeel David.

2 MR. WAGENER: My name is Todd Wagener.

3 I'm a new resident to Roswell. I've only been here
4 about 25 years.

5 I've hunted all over that country and I
6 love it and I don't think a site out there would
7 harm it in the least. I think it would probably
8 enhance it. And I think Roswell would be a much
9 better place with more people in it and I'm looking
10 forward to having the site here and let's get it
11 here. Let's do it.

12 MR. BROWN: And after Ed we'll have Victor
13 Blair.

14 MR. DAVID: My name is Edward David. I'm
15 a Roswell native and I'm here to speak in favor of
16 the Gandy Marley site.

17 As Mayor LaGrone stated, this is --
18 nuclear reprocessing is nothing new. I know in
19 Europe it's been utilized for many years, and it's
20 gone through many different upgrades throughout the
21 years. I know the first site in Britain was at
22 least started in 1964, if not earlier.

23 And one thing to keep in mind. I want to
24 make you aware of the name of the company that Mayor
25 LaGrone and Bob Donnell went to go see. It's called

1 BNPL. I think that stands for British Nuclear
2 Processing Labs. If you have a chance, please
3 Google it and look at it. Once you do the research,
4 without question you'll realize this is safe and
5 it's far superior to burying something in Yucca
6 Mountain. And once you know the facts, you'll be
7 very excited about this opportunity.

8 Keep in mind for those of you that have
9 been here for many years, Walker Air Force Base
10 closed in 1967. Since that point in time, we have
11 not had a potential opportunity like this. And by
12 the time this comes to fruition, it will probably be
13 50 years since the Walker Air Force Base closed
14 down, and we'd probably be very lucky if an
15 opportunity like this comes to us in the next 50
16 years. Please become educated, and I believe you'll
17 be just as enthusiastic as I am about this. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. BROWN: Victor Blair, and Mary Melott
20 will be next.

21 MR. BLAIR: My name is Victor Blair, and I
22 respectfully disagree with that last gentleman. I
23 also want to point out that it seemed to me like
24 that maybe I'm wrong, but I don't think Mr. McMinn
25 disclosed that he's on the payroll for these guys.

1 So that ought to -- you know, keep that in mind.
2 Also, I want to let you all know that even though
3 they went through the RCRA permit and got their
4 geology all lined out, that really there has been a
5 little bit more preliminary investigation done and
6 it seems like that Triassic Park is in the middle of
7 a karst area, that's caves and stuff, and that's
8 something that you can't have in a nuclear facility,
9 is karst, and for them to claim that Triassic Park
10 is an island of non-karst in a sea of karst, which
11 the whole Pecos Valley of southeast New Mexico, is
12 full of holes. That's kind of a stretch.

13 Also, another thing that they didn't bring
14 out is -- I'm sorry? I'm sorry. I thought he was
15 saying something to me. Also, another thing that
16 I'm not sure if they have brought it up or not, but
17 there is a little EPA administrative complaint
18 that's clouding Triassic Park's permit. If the EPA
19 is accepted to investigate this administrative
20 complaint concerning discrimination and
21 environmental justice and if the EPA -- the EPA
22 could decide, I should say, to either vacate the
23 permit, which means get rid of it, or to have to do
24 the whole process again, which would be kind of nice
25 because that way at least if they went through this

1 process again, then they'd realize when they got
2 this permit that they had these nuclear ambitions
3 all along, which were not disclosed.

4 And I was just curious, are they still
5 planning on using the 50,000 gallons of water a day
6 that Triassic Park said they were going to use
7 mainly for dust control? That will do it. Thank
8 you very much.

9 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Mary, and Don
10 Hancock will be next.

11 MS. MELOTT: I almost didn't come up
12 because I'm kind of here under false pretenses.
13 It's --

14 MR. BROWN: Let me make sure everybody
15 can -- can you hear her in the back? Lower the mic
16 a little bit.

17 MS. MELOTT: Is that better? I'm kind of
18 here under false pretenses because I really don't
19 know whether I want this site here in Roswell and
20 that's not what I'm concerned about at all. The
21 thing that brought me here was the term of Global
22 Partnership. I want to know what's behind this
23 project. I'd like to know where this is coming from
24 and where it's going to.

25 So many things today in our country are

1 going out and we don't know where they're going and
2 we don't know who's feeding all this stuff back to
3 us. I want to know, if this is global, who is
4 global. What influence is global going to have on
5 me, on Roswell, and how do I know if they have any
6 influence on me at all, you know? This is why I
7 came. And one of the gentlemen was kind enough to
8 explain some of it, but even he admitted that they
9 don't really know what that's going to be.

10 This sounds so good up front. So did
11 abortion, you know, so did a lot of our laws. But
12 what does it become in 20 years? You know? That's
13 my concern when we start talking global. And I'm
14 not opposed to global. Don't think that. I am not
15 an isolationist. I simply want to know who's
16 influencing my country and what that influence is
17 going to be and how I'm going to influence them,
18 what control am I going to have -- is my country
19 going to have over what they do. That's my concern.
20 Because I think we have the technology, the ability,
21 and the resources to put something like this
22 together and to run it safely and to preserve our
23 environment and to preserve us if we're doing it and
24 we're the ones that have a say in it and we're the
25 ones that have the control over it. That's why I

1 came.

2 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Don Hancock is
3 next, and Tom Jennings will be next.

4 MR. HANCOCK: Good evening. I'm Don
5 Hancock from Southwest Research and Information
6 Center, a 35-year-old nonprofit organization based
7 in Albuquerque.

8 The GNEP proposal is another expensive,
9 technologically unworkable and environmentally
10 disastrous program that will fail. An adequate
11 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement that you
12 heard about earlier tonight will show that the GNEP
13 program should be abandoned. A legally adequate
14 draft Environmental Impact Statement must first
15 fully and accurately describe DOE's proposal and the
16 environmental impacts of that proposal and all of
17 the reasonable alternatives to it. You heard that
18 briefly described tonight in the Department of
19 Energy's presentation, but, unfortunately, where we
20 are is that the materials tonight and their public
21 notice don't fulfill the requirements that I just
22 mentioned.

23 The first component of GNEP you didn't
24 even hear about tonight. The first component, the
25 fourth facility -- they talked about three, but the

1 first facility that actually would function under
2 GNEP is a surface commercial spent fuel storage
3 facility. For the last 20 years Department of
4 Energy and nuclear industry proposals to site such
5 facilities have all failed, including the one here
6 in New Mexico, some of you remember, about 15 years
7 ago on the Mescalero Apache reservation which was
8 also abandoned.

9 So what the Environmental Impact Statement
10 must discuss in great detail is the capacity of the
11 various facilities, how all of the nation's
12 commercial spent fuel for the next 100 years, if
13 that's the lifetime of this facility, would be at
14 the particular site, whether it's Triassic Park or
15 someplace else. The -- it must describe all the
16 impacts of that kind of storage and who, whether
17 it's Gandy Marley or Energy Solutions or General
18 Electric or the Department of Energy, is going to
19 own and control it. And the Environmental Impact
20 Statement is also going to have to describe the
21 various and many legal changes that are going to
22 have to be made to have those options take place.

23 At the hearing like this last week in
24 Morris, Illinois, at the General Electric
25 reprocessing site, GE said that it would control the

1 facility, it would decide what spent fuel could come
2 and what spent fuel couldn't. They would decide
3 what reprocessing technologies were used or not. So
4 the Environmental Impact Statement is going to need
5 to describe the whole range of those options,
6 whether the operator is actually going to be able to
7 say, well, Palo Verde in Arizona west of here is
8 pretty close to New Mexico, so we'll take that fuel
9 but we won't take the fuel from someplace else.

10 I don't think that's actually a workable
11 situation, but since DOE is saying that it may be a
12 privately operated facility, it's going to have to
13 go through all of those alternatives and all of
14 those options in this document that we're all
15 waiting with great anticipation to see. It must
16 discuss the -- this document is going to have to
17 discuss reprocessing in detail, including all of
18 that history.

19 You've heard about some of the so-called
20 good reprocessing. The document needs to talk about
21 the poor reprocessing plants in this country, at
22 Hanford, Washington, the Idaho National Laboratory
23 in Idaho, at the Savannah River site in South
24 Carolina, and the commercial reprocessing plant at
25 West Valley, New York. All of those were great

1 failures economically and environmentally. All four
2 of them are still in the process of being cleaned
3 up, although they've been closed for years. We, the
4 taxpayers, are paying for that, and so it needs to
5 talk about how that whole process relates to this
6 new process that they're now talking about, which,
7 of course, they're not going to use the old process,
8 they say, but they don't know what the process
9 they're going use now is.

10 MR. BROWN: If you're about done, go
11 ahead. That's fine. Otherwise we can bring you
12 back. Just finish up. Thank you.

13 MR. HANCOCK: So the same level of
14 discussion needs to be done in the document on all
15 the various reactor technologies because there's
16 more than just the one that they talked about
17 tonight that they may use.

18 In terms of alternatives -- and I'll be
19 quick about this. They mentioned two alternatives.
20 There are a whole lot more than that. They need to
21 talk about what I and a lot of other people call
22 hardened on-site storage of having the spent fuel at
23 the power plants, and I'll leave a copy of that for
24 the record. It is available on the table over here
25 as well.

1 It needs to -- if in fact we are looking
2 for alternatives to foreign dependence, we need to
3 look at the range of alternatives. Not just
4 nuclear, but also the renewable energy alternatives
5 for the next 50 or a hundred years that we can be
6 doing. Another alternative would be the global
7 nonnuclear energy partnership of really working with
8 all the countries of the world, because most
9 countries of the world, in fact, are not nuclear
10 power countries today, so what can we do about
11 working on that.

12 There is a lot that needs to be done. One
13 of the things also, I think, that needs to be very
14 carefully looked at is the exact site at Triassic
15 Park hasn't been precisely identified. The closest
16 identification we have is in the handout tonight,
17 which describes 920 acres. As has already been
18 mentioned, 480 acres of that site are already under
19 a RCRA permit that explicitly prohibits radioactive
20 waste. The Department of Energy has said the
21 minimum site requirement is 500 acres. So it's
22 unclear to me how this site even meets the minimum
23 requirement the Department of Energy has set. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much. Tom

1 Jennings. Is Tom here? Jesse Jennings? Ivan Hall.
2 That concludes the number of folks who have signed
3 up to speak, but if there's anybody else at this
4 point who would like to make a statement, please
5 raise your hand or go on up to the microphone. I
6 know that there is one person who is going to be
7 returning. He was coaching basketball for an hour,
8 and I think both he and his daughter intended to
9 make a statement. So they, I think, will be -- I
10 think returning just about this time. But if
11 anybody else would like to comment --

12 MR. MARLEY: I am Bill Marley again from
13 Gandy Marley. People have been asking for more
14 public meetings, more information, more education,
15 and we intend to have those starting here fairly
16 shortly. They will be advertised in the paper. If
17 we can get a sheet out where everybody can sign up,
18 we'll get you on a mailing list and make sure that
19 you're informed of it. Thank you.

20 MR. BROWN: Okay. Thank you very much.
21 Anybody else who would like to comment at this
22 point? We are actually scheduled to be in session
23 for -- I think until 9:30, so what we do in these
24 situations is we will recess and, folks, feel free
25 to look at the displays and ask further questions to

1 staff and DOE and if anybody comes or if anybody in
2 the audience would like to make further comments,
3 just see me and we'll reconvene. Thank you.

4 (A recess was taken from 7:57 to 8:08.)

5 MR. BROWN: We are reconvened, and we have
6 two speakers. I guess, Tom, do you want to begin?
7 Okay. Again, if you'll step up to that microphone
8 and identify yourself for the court reporter, and
9 we'll commence.

10 MR. JENNINGS: Sorry I'm a -- actually, I
11 was here early and had to go for basketball
12 practice. So I'm back, but my name is Tom Jennings.
13 I've been here before for DOE hearings. In fact, we
14 had hearings from 25 years ago. Is there anybody
15 here from the DOE that was here 25 years ago?
16 Anybody that has worked for the DOE that was around
17 25 years ago? Why I ask is because 25 years ago,
18 when Joe Skein was our congressman and we were
19 looking at the WIPP site down in Carlsbad, the
20 Department of Energy came here and promised that
21 there would never be high level waste here. The
22 Department of Energy promised not anybody else, they
23 made these promises to me, to everybody in this
24 community, everybody in this county, everybody in
25 this state.

1 Now, five years ago they had a meeting and
2 said they wanted to build a waste repository. I
3 didn't have much problem with that. I didn't even
4 go to the meetings. But now when I look at the
5 hearings and I read the testimony, it was told to
6 the community that there was not going to be any
7 nuclear waste there. Is that not the case? If that
8 is not the case, stand up and tell me because that's
9 the situation that we have. We've been told one
10 thing and then people come back and give us
11 something else. We were told 25 or 30 years ago
12 that it wasn't going to happen. Now it's happened.
13 We have another place down in Hobbs. Now they want
14 to build a place 40 miles out side of town.

15 You know, this is America. We had
16 promises from the DOE, from our leaders, from the
17 secretary of interior, secretary of energy,
18 Secretary Edwards. You know, I've been there. I've
19 met with Secretary Hazel O'Leary. They promised us
20 a bypass. We do have a bypass, yeah. It's the only
21 two-lane road on the whole WIPP route in the United
22 States, our bypass. It's a two-lane accident
23 waiting to happen. We have at-grade crossings.

24 When I was the mayor of this city, one of
25 the first things they came to me and asked me to

1 approve the bypass. I said, "Why?" They said,
2 "Well, because we're finished." I said, "You may be
3 finished, but it is unsafe. There are two or three
4 at-grade crossings on the bypass where we have 18
5 wheelers, WIPP trucks having to stop on a federal
6 highway where we've had a number of people killed,
7 we've had a number of accidents. It's unsafe."
8 You know, I didn't -- I was there 25 or 30
9 years ago, but they promised us these things
10 wouldn't occur. You know, I've met with Hazel
11 O'Leary. I told her the WIPP site, I said -- you
12 know, I was right up front. I said, you know, "The
13 WIPP site shouldn't be opened until we get a
14 bypass." Well, then they give us a two-lane bypass.
15 I don't think that was the intent. I don't think
16 that was what was promised, and I think it's
17 unfortunate that I have to be up here again saying
18 that there's concerns that we have not been told the
19 truth. I don't want to say lied, but we've been
20 misled, and I think it's unfortunate for our
21 community. And look at the Congressional Record.
22 Get the Congressional Record. I know it's in the
23 Congressional Record because I checked. Because I
24 wanted to make sure that that's what we got to save
25 our environment, to save our community.

1 You know, if we looked 25 years ago,
2 Hanford, Washington, it's a great place, there's no
3 problem. Los Alamos, New Mexico, great place, no
4 problem. You know, all these places. Now Hanford,
5 Washington, one of the biggest waste sites in the
6 country. They have spills. Los Alamos, beautiful
7 northern New Mexico up in the mountains. They've
8 got spills. They've -- we found out that they've
9 been dumping nuclear waste in the landfills with no
10 concern for the water, no concern for the
11 environment, and this was the DOE, this is the DOT,
12 this is the DOI.

13 These people are saying they're going to
14 protect us, they're going to save us, and you can
15 laugh back there. That's okay. This is our
16 community. I'm a native. I come from a family that
17 have been native New Mexico for a long time, and
18 this is our country. This is our land, this is our
19 city, this is our county, and we should be told the
20 truth right up front. We shouldn't be misled, and
21 we shouldn't have to be back up here asking -- you
22 know, a two-lane bypass. I never signed that thing
23 from the Highway Department because I didn't think
24 that the Roswell bypass was safe then. I don't
25 think it's safe now. I know too many people that

1 have been either hurt -- you know, I had a real good
2 friend that was hammered, her and her daughter, and
3 there -- it's a miracle that they're alive and
4 that's because we don't have it safe.

5 And, you know, hey, I live here. I'm in
6 the oil business. You know, I understand the
7 environmental -- you know, I've got -- in my
8 professional training I've got to take a lot of
9 geology and I know about the concerns of the geology
10 and the migration of water and all that kind of
11 stuff. It's important, you know. It's important
12 that we look at our community -- you know, for the
13 last six years in our country we've been misled
14 about the environment. You know, when they have the
15 guy that changed all the information that goes into
16 the Congressional Record and then he went to work
17 for Exxon Mobil, you know, it's a sad state in our
18 country and it's unfortunate.

19 MR. BROWN: Okay. That's -- we had a time
20 limit, and you're right on time.

21 MR. JENNINGS: I appreciate the
22 opportunity, and I just hope that we do what's right
23 for the environment and to protect our land and our
24 country because I, too, am a rancher -- or have a
25 family with a ranch and I, too, am concerned. We

1 have to be safe.

2 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much. Our next
3 speaker is Jesse Jennings.

4 MS. JENNINGS: Hi. I'm Jesse Jennings. I
5 do not think that Global Nuclear Energy Partnership
6 should be a waste nuclear facility east of Roswell.
7 It will not be good for our future, and nuclear
8 waste is very poisonous. It's not at all good for
9 the environment.

10 MR. BROWN: And, again, that concludes
11 those who had signed up to speak. Is there anybody
12 else? Yes.

13 MR. CARRASCO: Good evening, everyone. My
14 name is Aldo Carrasco. I did grow up in this
15 valley. I've been here since the age of three. I
16 went to school here at NMMI. Don't be deceived by
17 my appearance. I was a stellar student there.
18 Graduated in the top 10 percentile of my class. I
19 was salutatorian and student body president in high
20 school. Mr. Reed knows me.

21 I was very, very active in high school.
22 Unfortunately, at that point in time I chose to be
23 quite complacent in many, I guess, political
24 ventures and, believe it or not, college actually
25 opened up my eyes and taught me that, you know what,

1 it's okay to rock the boat every so often. It's
2 okay to stand up to authority, think for yourself.

3 I'm not here because I'm against progress.
4 I'm not here because I question the authority. I'm
5 not here to say you're wrong or you're right. But I
6 think that my voice counts. I may not wear a tie.
7 I may not have a business. I may not own land. But
8 my voice should count.

9 I think it's great -- I mean, I saw this
10 young lady come up here, speak up to all of you,
11 and, I thought, man, she had the nerve. I've got to
12 have the nerve. And it's been a while since I've
13 actually chosen to, you know, stand in front of a
14 group of people and voice my opinion. But, quite
15 frankly, the folks -- the good folks that we have in
16 the oval office, I mean, they are there because a
17 lot of people chose not -- those that were opposed
18 to them chose not to speak out against them or what
19 have you. And what I'm hearing tonight is
20 basically, you know, a lot of the community leaders
21 and everything say you're either with us or -- not
22 necessarily against us. They're not going to dump
23 that kind of philosophy quite yet.

24 But I grew up in this valley long enough
25 to say we're a cash-strapped community. There are

1 parts of town that really are quite impoverished. I
2 don't know what the average income in this community
3 stands at. I remember when I was in college it was
4 fifteen three. I'm sure it's not much more than
5 that now.

6 A lot of people are not concerned about
7 what's going on here tonight. But I think the media
8 did do a great job of getting the word out that this
9 was going to be taking place tonight. The Sally
10 Port Inn. Why not the Roswell Convention Center?
11 The other thing, too, I had to make multiple phone
12 calls to find out what time this was going to take
13 place. I remembered the date, February 27, but I
14 didn't remember the time. And so it actually took a
15 couple of calls, city hall, the county offices,
16 county -- county administrative offices, and then
17 finally the Roswell Daily Record, a gentleman by the
18 name of Andrew did a great job of letting me know
19 it's tonight at 6:00, show up, it's worth it.

20 So I think we shouldn't compromise our
21 futures simply because we're in dire straits for
22 some of us. Not all of us, some of us here have it
23 good, but some of us don't. And I think,
24 unfortunately, a lot of those people that don't
25 aren't here tonight.

1 Quite frankly, I think that this is a good
2 start, it's good gesture, but it's not enough. We
3 need to have more of these meetings and we need to
4 get the word out. You know, the Sally Port Inn
5 should have done something out there. We've got
6 security here for a reason. I don't know what's
7 going on, if they anticipated these inflammatory
8 remarks. Because our congressman anticipated them
9 because those words were clearly outlined in some of
10 the letters that people read to us.

11 I think I've kind of calmed down, but it's
12 hard for me not to become impassioned about
13 something like this because it's something that's
14 going to affect our futures. And I want this
15 community to thrive, but I don't want us to
16 compromise the health of this community. And there
17 are a lot of people here with fixed incomes and a
18 lot of people that look to Roswell for retirement
19 and to, you know, live off the last years of their
20 lives and -- you know, in comfort and in some sort
21 of security. And I think we should be able to tell
22 them, guess what, we have a healthy environment, we
23 endorse alternative energy measures like wind
24 powers, you know, wind-generated electricity and
25 we're not bringing waste to this community. We want

1 you to come here and enjoy this community. Thank
2 you for listening to me.

3 MR. BROWN: Thanks very much. Again, is
4 there anyone else who would like to comment at this
5 point? Yes.

6 MR. POPHAM: Hello. My name is John
7 Popham, and I'm a new resident of Roswell. I've
8 been here a little over a year. Came here to
9 retire. And I think it's my opinion on this issue
10 is that spent nuclear waste is a very serious thing.
11 It's a poison. It's deadly. It has to be
12 transported into the community by a truck or some
13 other means. There's always the possibility of some
14 sort of a disaster happening. At the facility as
15 well, there is the environmental well-being of the
16 people who work there, of the community at large.
17 If some natural disaster took place, it could be
18 very detrimental and could cause a loss of life.

19 But just the fact that it is such a deadly
20 material should give us pause. We shouldn't rush
21 into it. I'm a little disappointed to see all of
22 the government officials and community leaders line
23 up and say yes, yes, yes, yes, we all approve, up
24 and down the line. I know just a few individual
25 citizens took it up and gave a counterargument. And

1 because we need jobs and because the air base has
2 closed is not a reason to accept anything that comes
3 along. We'll take anything. We don't care how
4 deadly it is.

5 Let's look at it closely. Let's question
6 it. We need to use good sense and reason and look
7 at the purpose of it as well. This isn't really
8 going to do a lot for the energy situation in this
9 country. We have much -- I think there is a greater
10 potential, especially in New Mexico, for solar and
11 wind power. We should be putting money into
12 developing that instead of wasting money on
13 something that will probably end up causing problems
14 for our environment. And I oppose it and I urge
15 others to look into it and perhaps to oppose it as
16 well. Thank you.

17 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Anyone else? I
18 guess again we will recess, and if folks feel moved
19 to speak or if somebody else shows up, we will
20 reconvene. Thanks very much.

21 (A recess was taken from 8:23 to 9:30.)

22 MR. BROWN: Reconvening this meeting on
23 the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and asking if
24 there are any other members of the public who would
25 like to make a comment. Noting that no member of

1 the public has expressed an interest in providing
2 further comments and noting that the time is 9:30,
3 the official closing time for this meeting, this
4 meeting is officially adjourned.

5 (The proceedings concluded at 9:30 p.m.)

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2 I, DEBORAH L. O'CONNOR, New Mexico CCR #297, DO
3 HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON February 27, 2007, the
4 proceedings in this matter were taken before me and I
5 did report in stenographic shorthand the proceedings
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7 correct transcription of the proceedings had.

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